

Message Text

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45

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----- 114577

R 201224Z DEC 75
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8710
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY DOHA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 12853

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, EG
SUBJECT: MUHAMAD RIAD'S STATEMENT RE COMPARATIVE ARAB AID TO SYRIA
AND EGYPT

1. AT DINNER TWO EVENINGS AGO, MIN STATE MUHAMAD RIAD COMMENTED SOMEWHAT BITTERLY THAT, SINCE SIGNING OF SINAI II, SYRIA HAS RECEIVED ABOUT ONE BILLION DOLLARS OF ASSISTANCE FROM WEALTHY ARAB COUNTRIES, WHILE EGYPT HAS RECEIVED NOTHING. HE WAS CLEARLY DEEPLY CONCERNED THAT ARAB OIL STATES MAY BE RELUCTANT TO PROVIDE NEEDED FUNDS FOR EGYPT AFTER SINAI II AND INSTEAD LAVISH THEIR LARGESSE ON SYRIA. (THIS IS, OF COURSE, THE ARGUMENT THAT HAYKAL MAKES IN HIS CRITICISM OF SADAT'S ACCEPTANCE OF SINAI II.)

2. COMMENT: WE DO NOT BELIEVE RIAD'S COMMENT ABOUT ARAB AID TO EGYPT IS ENTIRELY CORRECT. TO BE SURE, DOLLARS 1.2 BILLION SAUDI-KUWAITI-QATARI FINANCIAL PACKAGE WAS MADE AVAILABLE TO EGYPT PRIOR TO SEPTEMBER, BUT WE HAVE HAD IMPRESSION ABU DHABI RECENTLY PROVIDED ANOTHER \$200 MILLION. WE ARE UNABLE TO COMMENT ON ALLEGED DOLLARS ONE
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BILLION TO SYRIA, BUT WOULD WELCOME DAMASCUS'

ESTIMATE IF THIS FIGURE SEEMS AT ALL CORRECT.

3. ON A RELATED MATTER, FRG AMBASSADOR STATES
THE MIN FINANCE ABU ISMAIL TOLD HIM LAST WEEK
THAT GOE HAS SHORT-TERM OBLIGATIONS DUR BETWEEN
MID AND END DECEMBER AMOUNTING TO \$300 MILLION.
ABU ISMAIL CLAIMED HE DOES NOT HAVE THE FUNDS TO
PAY THESE OBLIGATIONS.
EILTS

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